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# MARY OF NIMMEGEN

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OF THE ENGLISH VERSION IN THE  
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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1932

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PRINTED AT THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., U. S. A.

## MARY OF NIMMEGEN



## INTRODUCTION

MARY OF NIMMEGEN, who sells her soul to the devil for the transitory joys of this world, is a female prototype of Faust and Tannhäuser, a reincarnation of Beatrice, the runaway nun who, after wandering seven years with her paramour and living another seven as a public woman, returned, a repentant sinner, to her convent.

Two early versions of the story are extant, one in Dutch and one in English. The Dutch version is a miracle play in verse, with interspersed passages of prose, which appeared from the press of Willem Vorsterman of Antwerp, who was admitted as a member of St. Luke's Guild in 1512 and remained at work in that city until 1543. There were three later printings: by Herman van Borculo of Utrecht, 1608, by Pauwels Stroobant of Antwerp, 1615, and another of the same year with Stroobant's name on the title-page, probably piratically issued. The text of the Dutch play with a description of the editions may be found in P. Leendertz, Jr., *Middelnederlandsche Dramatische Poezie* (Leiden, 1907), pp. 277-328, and an English translation of it by Harry Morgan Ayres with an introduction by Adriaan J. Barnouw, in *A Marvelous History of Mary of Nimmegen* (The Hague, 1924).

Nothing is known about the author of the little Dutch drama. He was probably a member of the Antwerp Chamber of Rhetoric *De Violieren*, to whose device, "Uyt ionsten ver-saemt" ["brought together by love"], the poet seems to allude three times. The Chambers of Rhetoric were a kind of medieval theater guild where the local poets and poetasters imbibed the love of poetry with their beer. In *A Marvelous History* the poet hit upon a plot that proved to be popular, as shown by the number of subsequent editions. Although the printers called it a story and evidently offered it to the reading public as a moral tale, it was genuinely a miracle play and

has been frequently staged in Holland during the last thirty years. It affords an early, if not the earliest, instance of the effective introduction of the play within the play.

The English version is a prose tale from the press of Jan van Doesborgh, also of Antwerp. In the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries more English books were printed abroad than in England. So little printing was done in England that in 1485 no Printer to the King was appointed by Henry VII, but only a Stationer to the King; and the appointee was a foreigner called Peter Actoris, a native of Savoy. The large majority of books for the English market were imported from France and the Netherlands. Foreign printers received encouragement from an act of 1484 for the regulation and restriction of the conditions under which foreigners carried on business or trade in England, thanks to a proviso which exempted all foreign importers and retailers of books. A list of these foreign printers and booksellers may be found in *A Century of the English Book Trade*, by E. Gordon Duff (London, 1905).

Among the first who printed English books abroad were Raynaldus de Novimagio (i. e., of Nimwegen), who had a printing house at Venice; Egidius van der Heerstraten at Louvain; and Gerard Leeu at Antwerp. Their number increased rapidly in the first two decades of the sixteenth century. Several kept shops in London. Jan van Doesborgh was apparently one of these, for there is an entry in the Subsidy Rolls of 1523-24, under the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, "De Johanne van Dwysborow, extraneo, pro xl. s. per annum, ii. s." Robert Proctor furnishes a bibliography and the few known facts of his life in *Jan van Doesborgh, Printer at Antwerp, an Essay in Bibliography*, Illustrated Monographs, No. II (London: Printed for the Bibliographical Society, 1894), pp. 28-31. He was active from 1505 to 1530 and possibly for a decade longer. Among the books that he printed are, to give them short titles, *A Gest of Robyn Hode*, *The Lyfe of Virgilius*, *Tyll Howleglass*, *Of the New Landes* (including a voyage to America in 1496), *The Wonderfull Shape* (a bestiary), and *The Parson of Kalenborowe*. No less than these, the

tale of *Mary of Nemmegen* was directed at a reading public seeking entertainment not unmixed with edification.

Nothing more is known of the first English translator than of the Dutch dramatist. It has been suggested (Quaritch Catalogue, No. 384, April, 1924, Lot No. 682) that he was "Laurence Andrewe . . . who is known to have worked in . . . [that] capacity for J. van Doesborgh, and in a preface to his own edition of Bruynswyke's *Book of Distyllacion* (1527) he refers to himself as having made 'dyvers and sondry small volumes and tryfeles of myrth and pastaunce som newly composed, some translated and of late finished. . . .' In any case it seems certain from the English employed that the translator must have been an Englishman, as was also in all probability the compositor."

Both the English and the Dutch versions are undated, but from the type and printing devices used both are assigned to 1518-19. Hence a question has arisen as to the priority of the two versions. Some scholars regard the English version as an adaptation of the Dutch play, and others claim that both are based upon a now lost Dutch prose original. This problem has been discussed by Miss M. E. Kronenberg, *Het Mirakelspel van Mariken van Nieumeghen en het Engelsche Volksboek, De Nieuwe Taalgids* (1929), pp. 24-25, and by A. J. Barnouw, in *The Germanic Review*, VI (No. 1; January, 1931), 69-84.

The interest aroused by this problem suggested the desirability of reproducing the Huntington Library copy. The early history of this copy, from its first appearance in the sale of James West's library, in 1773, until it eventually passed into the possession of Mr. Christie-Miller, may be found in Proctor's bibliography (pp. 28-31). Mr. Huntington acquired the little book from Quaritch in 1924. It is the only known version in English and the only extant version in prose. Its very existence, moreover, creates the important problem outlined above. For these reasons this hitherto inaccessible work is now made available.

HARRY MORGAN AYRES  
ADRIAAN J. BARNOUW



¶ Here beganne a piteous story that was of a  
trouthe done in the lande of Gales of a maye  
de that was named Mary of Penmarche who  
the prince paramoure by the space of .vij. yere  
longe.





**I**n the tyme when Duke Wrent was taken  
of his sone Adolfe and his hoste the same tyme  
dwelled in the lande of gelders. iij. myle fro  
Mēmegen a deuoute pepse called sprghyrt  
che and he had a ponge mayde dwellinge with  
hym that was his colē that was named marp/  
and this Marp dōd all þe was to do i hyr vnder

house. It befell on a tyme that hys ghyfende  
sent marp to stemmengen to the merket to bye  
that he neded and sayde the dayes be shoete if it  
be late or ye haue done abyde with your auntes  
at stemmengen spster for it is pils for a mayd  
for to goo alone in the nyght/ than departed ma  
rp to stemmengen then when she was come the  
re she went a bouce hys busynes/ It fortunyd þ  
same day that hys aunte had chyd open. iiii. or  
v. women for the duke of gelders sake Adolfe þ  
had rane his fader/ that they all serned madde &  
serued more to be dyspyles then womē. For ma  
rps aunte hysde on the yonge dukes party and  
afterwarde Murdred hys selfe when that she  
knewe that the olde duke was conueyed out of  
pylso by þe knyght therof as more plainly here  
after foloweth.

**H**owe marp cam to hys aunte and howe hys  
aunte spoke to hys knappys and angerly.

**W**hen that marp had bought al thynges  
it was verp late/ than thought she for to  
tarp all nyght there/ Then wente she vnto hys  
Aunte and praded hys that she myght haue a  
bed there for þe nyght/ Than answered hys aun  
te angerly what haue ye here to do to tary all  
nyght here/ wherfore goo ye nat home agayne

than sayd. Marp my vnhyll sende me vnto the  
merket to buye that benededy And nowe synthe  
I goe home buttis verp late and often tymes  
by nyght is a mayde shipped and tane traupf-  
shed wthet for am I a frapde to goo home than  
sayd hyr. Minne alas potemayde pe nede nat so  
fere that for pe knowe well anough the howe that  
pe shulde lye and pe haue bene at the tannery  
dronke to wiche that pe be dröhe for I knowe  
well that the ponge men of vylages can seche  
mayden the nyght dauntes in the come when  
that it is tyme and that haue pe well proued for  
in your vylage dwell manpe ponge fellowses  
thā sayd. Marp a good aunte wherfore saye pe  
so. Than sayde hyr. Minne a dobetill tonge it wyl  
nat tell the trowth but I knowe well that pe ha  
ue daūsed manpe a daunse where there was no  
myndstrell and pe be a mayde shipil to your bely  
were great. Than sayd marp whp caste pe me i  
the tethe good aunte wiche suche thynges and I  
am therof gyltlesse but I pray pou aūte shoue  
vnto me it. I shall haue a bed here for conpyght  
thā sayd the aunte nap I had leuer that pe lay i  
the puer than in my howse when marp harde  
hyr aunte saye so she departed from hyr with a  
heup harte.



**W**hen Mary departed fro hyr Nunc.

**H**er Mary had these answers of hyr Nunc.  
 te she departed fro hyr with a heavy harte  
 out of the towne of Mennegen in þe Evening  
 and at the laste she wene so longe tyll she cam to  
 a churchegge where þe sacristy downe we-  
 ppyng and grynge hyr selfe vnto the deuyl &  
 sayd woote so the mynante this may I thanke  
 N.ij.

che for nomet care I nat whether that I kyll my  
selfe or whether that I goo to drowne me and  
I care nat whether y dyest or god come to me  
and helpe me I hare nat whether of them two  
I be.



**T**hus the deuill said vnto mary  
when she was in the brydder  
the hegge.

✠.✠.✠.

✠.✠.✠.

✠.✠.✠.

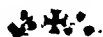
**T**he deuill that is at all times redde for to  
chaunge after dampned soules herping, the  
se wordes of marie turned hym into p lehenes  
of a mā but he had but one pce for the deuill cā  
not turne hym in the p lehenes of a man / but  
he haue some same / and than sayd he to his sel  
fe nowe wylt I goo singe my wordes for to spe  
ke vnto this mayde that I desplease hys not for  
men muste speke sweetly to women and so those  
wordes sayde he to mary. O fayer mayde why  
stirre you thus weeping hath there any mā  
that hath displeased you or done you wronge  
If that I knowe hym I shoulde be a wroghte an  
hym than marie herpage his voyce loke behin  
de hym and sawe a mā stande by hym wherof she  
was a frapde and sayde helpe god I am wro  
ged / she deuill sayd vnto Mary fayer mayde be  
not a frapde for I wyl nat do vnto you no ma  
ner of harme but doo you good for your fayer  
nes men muste loue you and if that ye wyl con  
sent vnto me I shall make you a womā aboue  
all other women for I haue more loue vnto you  
than I haue to any other womā noweluping

than lapde marp. **I** et her halfe made in dis-  
paper. **I**ste nat whether that **I** gve my selfe  
to god or to the dnyll so that **I** were out of this  
thraldome and mysarpe but **I** pray pou shewe  
unto me who char pe be. The dnyll answered  
to hye. **I** am a master of many scyances for that  
**I** take on me to do **I** bypnyge it unto a ende and  
if that pe wylt be my paramoure **I** shall teche re-  
pon all the forsayde scyances so that there is no  
woman in **y** worlde shall passe pou. Than lapd  
marp to **y** dnyll **I** praye pou shewe unto me  
what pe be and what your name is. than lapd  
the dnyll whan rechech pou what **I** be. **I** am  
the best of my kynne and pe wylt nat be dis-  
pleased my name is **I**saac with the one pee. **y**  
is well knowe amonge good fellows. than lapd  
marp nowe persepue **I** wylt that pe be the dy-  
ll that is al one who **I** be for **I** here unto pou  
good loue. than lapd marp **I** wold nat be a fraye  
of hym if **y** it were susper hym selfe. than lapde  
the dnyll to marpe. **I**ste mayde wylt pe be  
my loue **I** shall teche unto pou al the scyances a-  
fore sayde and **I** shall gve unto pou manpe  
other costely ieweltes and also money at poure  
pleasure so that pe shall lache no thyng at all. **y**  
pou shall haue all your owne pleasure to do that  
thyng that pe wylt desyre so **y** there is no wo-  
man that haue the pleasure that pe shall haue.

than sayde marpe to the dyppell that pe lpe is  
mepe shall teche to me the for sayde scy āces / thā  
sayde the dyppell I am contente after what that  
pe wyl and pe shall haue it / than sayde marp I  
wyl haue nngromācy for one / for I haue a w  
thpshap haue a boke therof and when that he  
lyste he wyl bynde the bynde therof. than sayd  
the dyppell of afor mapde what pe desyre pe shal  
haue but I couny nat that spence my selfe for  
it is so dangerous for when that pe begyn for  
to counge and if pou myste one letter in redyng  
the geste that pe call for wyl beke pauerne /  
and therefore I counsayll pou nat to lerne þ scē  
to / Than sayd Mary if that ic be so that spence  
wyl I nat lerne / than was the dyppell glad and  
sayde to his selfe now he haue I turned hys myn  
de fro þ spence for if that the culde nngromācy  
then whē they were angry with me then wolde  
the bynde me therewith / than sayd the dyppell to  
marp I shall teche to pou all the scyences afore  
sayde and pou shal speke all maner of langages  
that pe wyl desyre wherwith pe shulde be exal  
ted thā sayd marp nowe put I away al sorowe  
thorowght þour wordes and put me all hole to  
þour wyl / Than sayde þ dyppell O faper mapd  
I desyre pe of one thyng that pe wyl chaunge  
þour name / for I lone not to here that name for  
þis is marp I I all my felashyp fare the worse

and therfore shall I neuer loue that name / and  
if that pe wylt chonse poure name I shall make  
pou a woman aboue all women and chole pou  
whether that pe wylt be called / epshym / merthen  
or greteyn Than sayde mary vnto the dyuell  
what greneyth pou my name for mary smyth  
of maria the swete name that can be / and for  
all the good in the worlde wolde nat I chaunge  
my name nor be called other than mary For of  
maria was our lord borne whē the dyuell har  
de hye speke in that manere than sayde he to his  
selfe / nowe is all my labour loste and caste vn-  
der y<sup>e</sup> fote for I can nat chaunge hye name / thā  
sayde he to mary my swete loue if that we two  
shulde goe to gyther pe muste chaunge poure  
name / also what so euer pe here or se pe muste  
say no thynge or elles we two muste nedes dep-  
te Thā sayd mary to kepe poure counsaill I am  
content but for to chaunge my name I wylt ne-  
uer whyle I lyue for maria is all my cumforde  
and helpe in all my nede / also I serue hye day-  
ly with a prayer that I shold lerne in my yongth  
and therw<sup>th</sup> wylt I serue hye as longe as I lyue  
thowghe that I am here nowe in the wyldes fol-  
de spryng here cumfordslesse Than sayde y<sup>e</sup> dy-  
uell to mary whyle y<sup>e</sup> be set help on y<sup>e</sup> name I  
desyre and I am content that pe holde the swete  
letter of poure name that is. M. and pe shall be

called Emmekyn for there be manye women &  
 mapdens in your Lande that be called so Than  
 sayde mary vnto Satan if that ye wyl nat be  
 contente with my name / yet for all that wyl  
 nat we two departe for I am comēt to be called  
 Emmekyn yet were I verp loth do it / The was  
 the dyuell glad in his mynde that she had forsa-  
 ke hyr name and sayde / good loue let vs goo to  
 the regē boshe and from thense we wyl goo to  
 Anwarpe and or that ye come there ye shall ha-  
 ue lerned all maner of langages & also the .viij.  
 free scēces And also if that ye wyl abyde with  
 me any tyme ye shall see that we two wyl wor-  
 ke meruayles & ye shal drinke no other drinke  
 but wyne bothe muskeadell / bastard / romney  
 & all maner of other wynes at your owne wyl  
 and when that Satan had spoke these wordes /  
 than was Emmekyns harte glad and she aro-  
 se and went with the dyuell to the regen boshe  
 warde & when they were come there they toke  
 theyr pynne and abode there a great whyle / and  
 made good chere with reuelynge and daunsyn-  
 ge and payde for heuerp man that cam in theyr  
 companp that eate and dranke with them and  
 wolde nat let them spende a halfe pennp.



**C**ome wpli we leue of Ennuchproude liden  
and speke we of hpe unthill hi geyt hpe.

**A** Mary that now is called Ennuchproude  
was so longe ouer seame nas houte in hpe  
unthill he interapied greathpe where that she  
was become than sayde he to his suster I had hpe  
if that it were late or she had done that she shuld  
abpde with hpe aunte in Hemmenegen and slepe  
there all nyght but I wpli goo for for I were so  
ep that she shulde myscarpe nowe spyes I haue  
broughe hpe up of a chylde but ponge women  
be anone entreated than weite for greiffberthe  
so Hemmenegen to his susters howse and whan  
that he was there he asked for Mary his coler/  
his suster answered hym knappshpe I woe  
were were she is / Than sayde hpe broder suster  
pe moche is me than sayde his suster it is more  
than .x. dayes ago she cam home with a deon/  
hen face and prayed that she myght haue a bed  
that nyght and I had hpe that she shuld goo to  
the place where that she had drounken all day  
before / And by cause I sayde those wordes she  
canne out of the doores I wor nere where Than  
sayde the unthill alas where is that mayde be/  
come / Than sayde his suster at the wpne rauer  
he there shall pe synde hpe depnyng is good fe  
lowes / Than sayde the p: pste alas suster pe ma-

he my harte cōde to here those wordes that pou  
 speke his suster sayde if that she hath be troched  
 she shall be the elyar for a nother & she shall ne-  
 uer hake therof / Than wente the pryste fro his  
 suster w<sup>th</sup> a heuie harte when that he hadde hym  
 speke in that manere & cōde here no tpynges  
 of Mary his colerne.



**¶ Howe Marps aunte cut hys owne throte.**

**A**nd in þe meane tyme dyd the Tapler that  
hepte the prysō that the olde duke was in  
let hym out of prysō and they fled bothe to the  
towne of shertegē bosche where that they were  
honourably receyued of the Lordes of the same  
towne and greaciope was made for his deliuer-  
ce with great triumphe that culde be made /  
within a wyke: And wher as cam vnto marps aunte  
howe that the olde Duke was deliuered out of  
prysō: was in the towne of shertegen bosche /  
this herpynge marps aunte was verp angerp  
therwith and she was so angerp therwith that  
she swelled that she had almoste burst and she  
cared she nat what she had done to hys selfe and  
than the dyuell that is at all tymes redde tem-  
ped hys to cut hys owne throte: at the laste he tē-  
ped hys so muche þat hys anger she toke a knyfe  
and cut hys owne throte: Than was the dyuell  
glad and toke the soule and bare it to hell to ever  
lastynge payne:

**¶ Howe Emmekyn and Satan departed to þe  
towne of Anwarpe.**

**W**han Emmekyn and Datan had binel  
led a good chylle in swetege bolthe that  
is a faper towne/then departed they fro thense  
and went towarde Anwarpe to gyder / & when  
they were at Anwarpe thā sayd Datan to Em  
mekyn nowe be we come to Anwarpe nowe let  
us goo to the golde tre on the market place and  
there wylt we reuel and plape and spare for no  
coste and for a pot of Romnepe there shall pe see  
never thynges that spe de theye fryndes goodes  
that bene deed and also there shall pe see the spryng  
gilt women that they kepe and also there shall  
pe see braggers & bolster & pychers of quarels  
and also theyes and farers for monepe. and abso  
ue spt the Surgeses of the towne that had leuer  
take monep than for to gyue monep Thā sayde  
Emmekyn good Datan let us goo thyder and  
see that pastyme for that is the thyng that I re  
ioyce moste in and loue beste to see Than sayde  
Datan to Emmeken with a good wyl/chan de  
parted they to the golden tre and whē that they  
were come then sat they downe and called for a  
pot of wyne thā sa there. ij. fellowes & a nother  
fete they by that sawe Emmekyn spt by Datan  
than sayde the one to the other / se what a faper  
woman sptt he ouer ageynste us with a pong  
fellowe that hath but one pee I merueyll what  
great famalyr that fape mayde hath vnto hym

the wylde gost take our pot and goe for by hym/  
and also take hyr fro hym thā arose the bench  
wylde and cam and sat downe by Datan to  
the one pee and sayd to hym by your leue may  
we for by you/Than sayd satan pe with a good  
wylde ye be welcome take the pot and drinke  
with us I praye you/Than answered the ben  
themyers we thāke you hartely we haue of  
our owne than as they were set and talked/thā  
sayde Emmekyn my loue Datan were it not  
gemet pe that I shuld tell howe many droppes  
of wyne were in the pot/whā the benchemy  
lers harde hyr saye so they sayde to hyr that we  
re a thyng impossible & a thyng to meruaile  
of greatly/Than sayd satan to the benchemy  
lers she can do it wele and greater thynges thā  
that is for she can the .viij. free scences I durste  
let hyr styp for to dispute with the beste docture  
in all Darps or Touen/Than sayde the bench  
emyers to Datan I praye the good fellowe yf  
thou wylt desyre hyr for to do that wonderly sc  
ance that we may see hyr doo it / and ethe of vs  
shall gve unto you a pot of wyne before & mo  
reouer if there be any man that wylt say the co  
trary we wyl be auenged on them/Than sayd  
Datan to the fellowes say pe that than shall she  
do it before you and than sayd he to Emmekyn  
Emmekyn my loue ye muste shewe unto these

good fellows better maner than I am be i  
the pot aspe and pryncple the hofe to do pome-  
day and then wyllyng to wyllyng for none. I g.  
douce this lorde Emmekyn wyllyng that I must  
nedes theme wyllyng you that hofe of ienowpe  
than munde pe all hepe in pece a speke in munde/  
for rethorpe munde be harde and as Emmekyn  
had spoke these wordes a that is was harkend i  
the munde there cam many folkes for to see is to  
knowe whether that the culde do it or not wyllyng  
that Saran sawe that there were many men  
gathered for to see it than thowghe he þ he wyl-  
de god a litle son of them to gother by the way  
to that one of them wyllyng to another than a  
pe he was or. I. to munde the wyllyng to gother  
by the way lorde there was one floure and he  
that had doite þ dede was tame and also behed-  
hed wherof Saran grede reioised and was glad  
and lorde to hym selfe the is well practised of  
me for there is now. I. dede and in this maner  
dwelled Saran and Emmekyn at the gulden  
ire at Anwarpe beynge in the merke place and  
made reuel and myffe rule longe tyme / so that  
thowghe the opuell temptarpon there were  
many men floure for Emmekyns sake wherfor  
the opuell reioised and was glad and lorde this  
is a very good lodgng for me I culde nat haue  
founde a better in all Anwarpe than this is for  
S. iiij.

nowe shall I make many wonders if that we  
 abyde here a while longer for by me shall be a  
 great many soules brought to hell and I shall  
 make many a one for to lete his lyfe throughte  
 my temptacion of them & therefore were I lothe  
 for to depaſſe fro this dogging for there be ma-  
 ny that I may save in my ſnare as men may ſa-  
 ve a hound that cannaſt ſwe and here ſhall I ſyn-  
 de ſuche at all tymes in this howſe / and I myll  
 goo to my hoſte and by my borde of hym by the  
 moneth as longe as I tarre here / and than ſhall  
 I be redde at all tymes for to make chydunge &  
 beawpunge and let them to gythe by the eres /  
 and make one ſpyche another for or it be a pere  
 paſte I ſhall make me a phyſician or a ſothe ſay-  
 er ſo that þ people ſhall come and ſeke to me for  
 counſaile & by that maner ſhall I bringe more  
 than a thouſande ſoules into hell if that I am  
 nat let my maſter Ihu.

.x. .x. .x. .x. .x. .x.

¶ Howe Emmekyn by ſpynfull ſpynge a ſpe-  
 tell compyled.

.x. .x. .x. .x. .x. .x.

**A** S Emmechyn had dwelled at Murewepe  
a good while she began to marke þe ly-  
ned unpryncely & synfully and for þy sake þat  
many man were murdered by the dyuyl fals-  
hed and lapde & it forthpynche me my synfull  
lyuynge and so for sake the ioyes of heuen and  
goode myghtman to euerlastynge penyoun /  
nowe perswete I well that this Satayn that is  
here w me is the dyuyl though he that he wolde  
neuer tell it unto me . O Munte pour spytfull  
wordes that ye sayd unto me hath causyd me  
I shall be utterly dāpned in the pte of helle and  
if that now I shulde surue / I am afrayde þat  
I haue comē to ferre and also I was wylle to  
worshyp our lady dayly with a prayere now  
I haue nat done it of longer tyme / and I am wyl-  
l that also suffer me also that I shulde do it ther-  
fore may I se well that he is þe dyuyl and now  
is it to late for me to take repentance / and now  
wyl I let all þe wyne good and make good shere  
for pender I see cum in the felashyp þat pro-  
myled me yester day to make good there & whē  
they were come than wen Emmechyn and sarā  
and sat downe by them and made good there &  
had forget all þy þe wyne & at the laste the fell  
at wordes with other men so that one of the fel-  
lowes had styked a man / and when that was  
done sayde Satayn to the fellowe that they two

wolde goo without the towne and forþer þyd /  
 and as they were without the towne the dyuell  
 spied a man compagne than sayde the dyuell to  
 þe fellowe never cometh a mā to muche money  
 let us hylt hym and take the money fro hym &  
 the dyuell remped hym so muche that he consen-  
 ted and when the man was come / The fellowe  
 toke a dagger and spied hym to her of the dyuell  
 was glad and departed.



**H**owe Emmekyn wolde goo see hys fryndes  
in the lande of Gelder.

**H**o Satan and Emmeken had dwelled in  
Antwarpe by the space of. vi. pere at the sp  
ne of the gydden tre where that muche mysche  
fe and maffawter was done thorough the  
So on a tyme longed Emmekyn for to see hys  
vnknyll and other knyssfolke þe she had in the lan  
de of Gelder/than despyed she Satan þe he wold  
goo w hys to the lande of Gelder for to se home þ  
my vnknyll and my auntye that knowe nat whe  
re that I am. become for I knowe for a sertente  
that my vnknyll taketh great thowghy for me for  
he loued me euer well and he hath wept for my  
lake many a tere/Than sayde Satan to his sel  
fe this polle thome pepple that prayeth a praper  
to the woman þe is all in whyte þe ceter he me at  
all tyme that I may nat haue my purpose for  
it were nat for his praper that he sayeth I had  
of this tyme other a broke hys arme/or a legger  
or els hys necke/Than sayd Emmekyn Satan  
what saye pou to pour selfe in that maner/than  
sayd Satā vnto hys I say no other thyng but  
as pe wylt so am I contente to goo/than payed  
Satan the hoste all the by costes so that the hoste  
was well content and thanked them hartely of  
the by good payment than toke Satan leue and

departed to Hemmegg in the lade of Gelders/  
and when they were come to Hemmegg it for  
ruined on the same that it was the dilpcacon of  
a chprche/ when they were within the Towne  
than sayde Emmekyn to Saran let vs goo see  
howe my aunte dothe/ than sayde Saran pe ne  
de nat to go to hpr for she is deed more than a ve  
re a goo/ than sayd Emmekyn is it trewth/ thā  
sayd satan pe/ than sayd Emmekyn to þ dpuell  
what do all pender folkes þ be pender gathered  
than sayde the dpuell the play a play þ is wont  
euery pereto be played/ than sayde Emmekyn  
good loue let vs goo here it for I haue harde my  
vnkplf say often tymes that a play were better  
than a sermant to some folke/ than sayde the dpuell  
to Emmekyn what hve pe on me to see the  
play let vs goo to the Tauerne and make good  
there/ thā sayd Emmekyn good satan let vs go  
here it/ than sayde Saran wple that pe wolde so  
sayne here it go chpder and here it but carry no  
lenger than I shall call you/ than went Emme-  
kyn and harde the plave and the plave was of  
synfull lypunge and there she sawe hpr lypung  
played be fore hpr face than she began to besorpe  
and take repentance/ than called the dpuell hpr  
for he wolde haue hpr here it nat oute/ But she  
wolde nat come/ for by the play she was all hole  
turned fro hpr mysse lypunge & sayde . O good

lorde haue mercy on me pore wretch a sinner  
 I am nat wordy to trede vpon the erthe and I  
 am a scape & I haue conne to ferre / than sayde  
 the dyuyl to his selfe all my labour is losse the  
 taketh vnto hye hole repentance and sayd vnto  
 Emmekyn what ayle pe nowe be pe mad / let  
 be pour weppinge and sorowe and let vs goo to  
 the tauerne and make good there & put a waye  
 pour sorowe / than sayde Emmekyn go fro me  
 thou false fynde woo be to the that euer thou ca  
 to me and I repent me that euer I chose the for  
 my paramour for by & I am vterly dainpned  
 with out the more mercy of god / than arose the  
 dyuyl fro the growne and sayde holde pour pe  
 ace and be styll or elles I shall bere the with me  
 to enerlastyng payne / Than sayd Emmekyn  
 O good lorde haue mercy on me / and defende  
 me from the handes of the dyuyl that he do to  
 me no harme. Than sayde the dyuyl vnto hye  
 I see it wyl be no better tha toke he Emmekyn  
 in his clames & carped hye vp into & aper more  
 hygher than ony steppt that hye vnto and al  
 the people meruayled therat / howe it cam that  
 the was carped so sodenly vppe.





**H**owe Satan toke Emmekyn and bore hyr  
 up into the aier and caste hyr downe and howe  
 that hyr unkyll sawe it.

**H** Satan the Dypylt had boerne Emme-  
 kyn up into the aier than caste he hyr fro  
 thense downe wenying to haue broke hyr necke  
 but god and our Lady wolde nat suffer it / & she  
 fell in the strete before all þe people wherof the

with the people: were before a bushes & a frapde  
 and also there was the: Unkyl that harde the  
 same playe that sa: we hpe: also fall but helme we  
 nat that it was his soulye than we hpe: people  
 to hpe: as sa: we hpe: myght: a fapage if hpe  
 ne the were nat broke: than I am a burgeys of  
 towne to spryghly the and asked hym if that  
 he wolde goo and see whether that the had bro-  
 ke hpe: ne the or no and he sayd with a good wyl  
 than went the burgeys and he to Eimund hpe  
 & when they were comen then a fapage burgeys  
 if the had nat broke hpe: ne the and they sayd no  
 than sayd spryghly the that is a great mer-  
 uaple let me come see hpe: & then went hpe: Unkyl  
 to hpe: and when that he sawe hpe: he sayd alas  
 it is my cosynne I haue sought hpe: by the spa-  
 ce of. viij. yere longe and neuer coulde fynde hpe:/  
 and as Eimund hpe had layne a good space in a  
 fownde: than began the a lirtell to come to hpe  
 selfe and than harde the hpe: Unkyl speke to hpe  
 whiche the knewe well by the vopre and sayde/  
 O Unkyl what is me be fall/ where haue I be &  
 where am I nowr/ O good lord I praye I haue  
 mercy on me that I may be saued and come to  
 euerlastyng lpe/ for had nat your mercifulnes  
 a kepte me here the dyuell had carped me bothe  
 body & soule to euerlastyng payne. than sayd  
 hpe: Unkyl to hpe: a good cosynne howe fortunied

this than sayd Emmekyn vnknyth I wolde that  
I were in the same case as I was in whē that  
I dwelt w pou but now I am dāpned/hyt vn  
knyth sayd say nat so good cōseñ for there is no bo  
dy losse with out the fall in despayr but I pray  
pou shewe vnto me howe that it hapened that  
ye were carped so hygh in the azer as ye were /  
than sayde Emmekyn good vnknyth I shall tell  
to pou all to gthet / on a tyme as I sat vnder a  
hedge whē that I departed fro my hunte I ga  
ue my selfe vnto the dyuel and he cam vnto me  
and I went w hym and dwelled with hym this  
viij. yere longe and in that tyme haue there ma  
ny wonders be done / on a tyme I despyed hym  
to gos see pou and when that we were here I de  
spied hym that I myght here this play / and by  
this play was I cōuerted wher w y dyuell was  
angery and toke me and bare me into the azer  
and caste me downe amonges these folke / than  
sayd hy vnknyth was the dyuell with pou good  
cōseñe / than sayde Emmekyn I was at his cō  
maundement this. viij. yere / than sayde hy vn  
knyth that gest cōmisse werpde fro pou and se  
whether that we can get the mercy of God by  
our prayer.

¶ Howe the dyuell spake to syr Eschylliche.



**W**hen þe þe daniel harde those wordes he said  
 þe shalt thou nat haue pore for to do for þe  
 wylt whē it please me carape hys body & soule  
 to the pyr of hett / than sayde hys unkele that shal  
 3 let þe than coungered he hym þe he culde cōpre  
 hys nō more than wēt hys unkele to the deard  
 and cōplained but Eumekyn sayd she trusted  
 to be saued and than wēt he to þe mooste lerned  
 of all þe nymegen and asked counsaill of them.

by as they haue the spynne there was none to  
 well liked to help or deuoute that durste take a  
 pon them to aduise hye of them and geue vnto  
 hye petuaunce accordyng to hye spynnes wher  
 of they were ryght heuy / and so depyed Emme  
 lye and hye vntyll a way with heuy hartes.



¶ Howe for ghyberche and hys vnkyll depar-  
red towarde Colapne with Emmechpn ⁊ howe  
he toke the holpe sacrament with hym that the  
duell shold haue no pore of them.

..\*.\*. (:.)✠(:.) ..\*.\*.

**W**han that Emmechpn and hys vnkyll  
culde get us toforde in Remmegen tha  
on the motowep for ghyberche sponge masse  
and when that masse was done than toke he þ  
holp sacrament in his hande and bad that his  
refpne Emmechpn shold goo with hym to Co-  
lapne for to seke remmedy and Emmechpn sayd  
with a good wyll vnkyll I am reddepe / Than de-  
parted they both towarde Colapne hys vnkyll  
berpnge in his hande the holp sacrament / and  
the duell folowed them all þ way but he durste  
nat come nere them to do them any harme by þ  
verru of the holp sacrament / but in the way as  
he went he brake trees and caste after them for  
to haue broke theyr neche / but our good lord þ  
is euer mercyfull / wold nat suffer hym to haue  
the power for to do them any harme therewith  
for they bothe were wome for to worshypp dap-  
p our blessed lady with a serapne prayer that  
they had lerneþ And at þ laste they went so lōge  
that they cam vnto Colapne ⁊ when they were

there than went he vnto the Bpshopp and con-  
 fessed hys colpe and when that he had harde  
 all hys confesyon he was sorow for hys and said  
 A good dawghter pour spynnes be so greivouse  
 that I darenat absolue you wherfore I am sorow  
 this herpunge hys vnkyll toke his leue of the bps  
 shop and han departed.



..\*.\*.

(\*.)X(\*.)

..\*.\*.

**Howe** Emmehpn and hpr vnkpfl toke thep iourneys to Rome to the Pope for to be absolved of hpr synnes and howe the dyuell folowed the for to haue done some harme vnto them.

..\*.\*.

(\*.)X(\*.)

..\*.\*.

**A**fter that Emmehpn and hpr vnkpfl had bene with the bpschop and culde haue no remedye than departed thep fro hpm and toke thep iourneys to Rome where that thep cam in shortspace in good auenture And as thep were come / Then went Mary and hpr vnkpfl to the Pope and when thep were come before hpm thep kneled thep downe / and than desired Emmehpn the pope for the loue of god that he myght be cōfessed of hpm / and he answered with a good wyll than sat Emmehpn and the pope downe / than began Emmehpn for to shewe vnto y pope hpr synnes and sayde / O moste holpelle fader the erthe bereth nat now a more synfuller persone than I am / than sayde the pope good dawghter why saypesto tell to me y cause wherfore / Than sayd Emmehpn O holy fader I haue bene y dyuels paramoure by the space of .vij. yere / and haue done all hy puges that he cōmaunded me for to do

The Pope sayde to the pe well that he was the  
duell when that he cam vnto pou and spake to  
pou than sayde Emmekyn pea well a wonghe  
that me fore repenteth / Than sayde the pope to  
Emmekyn howe coulde pe consent to hym whyle  
le that pe knewe for a certence that it was þo  
duell than sayde Emmekyn to the pope & holp  
fader the great gosse that he gaue vnto me bo  
the of syluer and of gold and also the pleasure þ  
that I had with hym dancyn borhe in daunsyng  
and playinge and had all that I despyed for that  
cause vnto I agree vnto hym & also for my sake  
hathe there more than. CC. persones be murde  
red whiche fore repenteth me / than sayd þe Pope  
& good dawghter for that thyng mape pe be  
ryght heu / than sayde Emmekyn that I am  
as heu / therefore as ony woman mape be and I  
despie pou holp fader that pe woll for the loue of  
god and our lady / ggeue vnto me penance for  
my synnes howe great so euer it be / than sayde  
the pope vnto hym Alas good dawghter poure  
synnes be so greuous that I can nat ggeue to  
pou penance nor absolue pou without that god  
ggeue vnto me some grace to ggeue me some ma  
ner of knowlege & I wyll pray vnto hym ther  
fore then kneeled the pope on his knees & prayed  
god þe he wolde put in his mynde some penance  
that were for his synnes & when he had prayed

a whyle than cam into his mynde a penaunce  
 for hys wherof he was glad that bad he Enme-  
 lynt that the shulde call hys unkyll & than shuld  
 he gonne unto hys hys penaunce than went Em-  
 mekynt to hys unkyll and bad that he shulde go  
 with hys to the pope than wēt hys unkyll with  
 hys unto the pope and when that they were co-  
 me than sayde þe pope unto hym / I wolde be so-  
 ry that any man or woman shulde be losse by þe  
 faute of me than toke he. iij. prynces in his  
 hande and sayde take these. iij. great pryn-  
 ces and make a synthe set them on and ye shal  
 put the greaueste about your necke & the other  
 two a boure your armes as faste as þe may for  
 fallynge of and than let them alone theron tyll  
 the tyme that they fall of by theyr selfe & be all  
 consumed and when they be consumed and go-  
 ne then be your synnes forgouen you and our  
 lord hath mercy on you / than sayd hys unkyll  
 to the Pope my holpe fader if it please you that  
 thyng is a thyng impossible for if that it we-  
 re possible for hys for to lye by þe space of . CC.  
 yere yett for all that they shulde nat consume &  
 fall of fro hys / Than sayd the pope unto hys un-  
 kyll O syr þe mercy or good is great for the may  
 pray so muche unto our lord god þe chorowghe  
 hys prayer Our lord god may haue mercy on  
 hys and take hys to his grace / And by maracle

cause the p<sup>r</sup>on r<sup>r</sup>unge for to fall fro h<sup>r</sup>e And as  
the pope had spoke those wordes and had g<sup>r</sup>ue  
unto h<sup>r</sup>e this pennaunce than roke they the  
leue of the pope and prayed hym that he wolde  
pray for h<sup>r</sup>e and the pope sayde to them that he  
wolde with a good w<sup>r</sup>ll but he sayd to h<sup>r</sup>e take  
good hede that ye abyde st<sup>r</sup>ll in the mynde that  
ye be i and thynke stedfastly y<sup>e</sup> shall be saued  
and fall nat i despayre for all that I haue g<sup>r</sup>ue  
you for by your pennāce and by your great cō  
tricion may god forg<sup>r</sup>ue you I g<sup>r</sup>ue unto you  
eu<sup>r</sup>elastynge blyss / than thanked Emme h<sup>r</sup>e  
and h<sup>r</sup>e unkyll the pope and so departed / when  
that Emme h<sup>r</sup>e had this r<sup>r</sup>unge to h<sup>r</sup>e penaū  
te then wente h<sup>r</sup>e unkyll and she to a smythe I  
caused hym for to smyte on the r<sup>r</sup>unges y<sup>e</sup> great  
teste on h<sup>r</sup>e necke I on eche of h<sup>r</sup>e harmes one  
faste that neuer whyle she had lyued shulde ha  
ue fallen of but by miracle.



**¶** Howe Emme h<sup>r</sup>e was a none at M<sup>r</sup>ast<sup>r</sup> p<sup>r</sup>ck  
of the ordere of saynte Mary magdalene that  
returne fro thei v<sup>r</sup>coule spynge.



**W**hen that hpr: vnkpllt had caused the p<sup>re</sup>l  
ruges on than depared he and Emme  
hpn fro home and went so longe t<sup>ill</sup> that thep  
cam vnto the towne of mastepe where was a  
nonnerp of Honnes of seynt Magdalenes or  
der called conuerted spinners For there be none  
other in the place then thep that haue bene m<sup>is</sup>p  
se women in whiche place she despyed hpr: Un  
kpllt that he wolde Taboure for hpr: y she myght  
be shorne in amonge them/and hpr: vnkpllt an  
swered with a good w<sup>ill</sup> then spake the vnkpl  
tho the abbaple of the place and entreated hpr  
that his coseyn myght be shorne in and made a  
none in hpr: place and he entreated hpr: so much  
that at the laste she agreed then with in. ij. or. iij.  
dapes was she shorne in by the helpe of hpr: vn  
kpllt/And when it was done than depared hpr:  
vnkpllt into his owne lande / and lyued after by  
the space of. xxiij. pere and euerpe pere after as  
longe as he lyued he went and sawe his cosapn  
ons in a pere.

**H**owe a Kungellcam fro heuen and put of y<sup>e</sup>  
p<sup>re</sup>l r<sup>u</sup>ges fro Emme hpn.



..\*..

..(\*..\*..)..

\*..

**A**d Semmekyn was thus thorne into the  
 pryncpe she fasted and prayed so muche/  
 that at the laste our lorde had mercy on hys and  
 forgave hys all hys synne as on a tyme as she  
 was a praynge in hys selfe she fell on slepe and  
 in hys slepe apered a aungett and undyd y prync  
 rynges fro hys & she thought in hys slepe howe

that she was in hell and howe that there cam a  
 Mungell and browghe hie into heuen and that  
 there were a great many Doves cā to hie and  
 with thei wynges smote off hie prauynges  
 and when that she had had that wyngon / than a  
 washed hie and laide the ruynges befor hie ⁊  
 were vndone / wherof Cunctina was right  
 glad and fell vpon hie knees and thanked god  
 that he had shewed vnto hie pore spinner that  
 great maraile and had mercy on hie and after  
 sayd O althie people take a ensample of me and  
 whyle that ye haue lasure ⁊ space do penitēce  
 for your synnes ⁊ amēd your wretched lyping  
 whyle ye maye haue lasure for now we maye  
 see howe mercifull that god is by be ⁊ therefore  
 do penitēce and pray vnto our blessed lady ꝑ  
 the man pray for you that ye maye come into  
 ioy that is with our endyng to the which ye lase  
 by nyge bothe you and we amen.

..\*.\*

\*.\*✠\*.\*

\*.\*.\*

¶ The conclusyon.

**T**his in this booke conteyned is for a reweyth  
 and if that ye will nat beleue me that was the  
 first maker of this booke & that it fortune on of  
 pou for to goo into the Lande of Flandera to a  
 towne called Mastryche and goo to the shoppe  
 of the conuerred spinners there shall ye see En-  
 richmans grave & also yron rynges hanging  
 there over and under nethe wyren hye lypyn  
 ge and also hye permaske and she lued but. ii.  
 yere after she was deliuered of 5 rynges and  
 so departed & went vnto the blyss euer lasting  
 to the whiche blyss be praynge both pou and me. .  
 H. . M. E. R.

..\*.\*..

(\*)✠(\*)

..\*.\*..

**W**hen sendeth this luttell treatyse Imprinted  
 at Wynwarpe by me John Dunsbrowghe dwel-  
 lynge besyde the same porte. .





